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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- B-3 7. On approximately 17 April 1950, Vichien Muangkhot* approached Tao Oon, through the Lord Mayor of Nong Khai, asking him to secure French permission for his safe return to Laos. Tao Oon refused, fearing that the French, who consider Vichien dangerous and unreliable, would not only refuse but would suspect Tao of collaboration with Vichien.

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* [REDACTED] Comment. Lt. Gen. Vichien Muangkhot is the former commander of the Free Laos forces. When his funds were exhausted he turned first to the Thai Government and then to the Chinese Communists for support. The Communists appeared willing to work with him only if he were successful in constructing a secret airstrip along the northern Thai border. It is known that Vichien did not go north on this mission when he originally planned. He may have been restrained from doing so by the Thai Government, with which he was in contact, or for other reasons. It now appears that Vichien has been inactive for the past few months, that he is at the end of his resources, and wants to return to Laos. The Viet Minh, who reportedly have the support of Prince Souphanavong, probably feel they do not need Vichien. Furthermore, since Viet Minh troops have fought on occasion with those of Vichien, it is likely that real cooperation between the two is impossible.

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